

SN. 10/090,476

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. MATS:037

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending in this application for which applicants seek reconsideration.

Amendment

Independent claims 1, 8, and 15 have been amended to further define the invention, namely incorporating the features of the third embodiment (Fig. 5). Specifically, these claims now define the bonding and non-bonding sections formed at the outer rim of each stator. Dependent claims 5, 6, 12, and 13 have been amended to reflect the changes made in the independent claims. Dependent claims 16-18 have been amended to further define the non-bonding section. No new matter has been introduced.

Art Rejection

Claims 1-4, 7-11, and 14-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Takeuchi (USP 5,583,387) in view of Hirano (USP 5,729,072). Claims 5, 6, 12, and 13 were rejected under § 103(a) as unpatentable over Takeuchi in view of Hirano and Torrossian (USP 4,103,195). Applicants submit that the applied references would not have disclosed or taught the bonding and non-bonding features set forth in the independent claims.

The examiner maintains that while Takeuchi teaches welding the inner and outer rim of each stator member with a laser, it would have been obvious to bond the same area with an adhesive instead. The examiner's position is that bonding and welding are substitutable for one another. Even if the examiner's assertion were correct, the applied references would not have disclosed or taught providing a plurality of non-bonding sections in addition to a bonding section. Indeed, as is disclosed on pages 7-8 of the present specification, when welding the connecting sections on the outer rim of the adjacent divided members, part of the adhesive used for bonding the core sheets can evaporate into gas, which can interfere with the welding. The present inventors found a solution to this problem by including non-bonding sections that prevent the bonding material from interfering with welding.

Applicants submit that the combination of the references urged by the examiner would not have taught or motivated one of ordinary skill in the art to include the claimed non-bonding sections.

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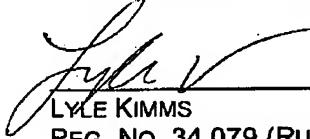
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Conclusion

Applicants submit that claims 1-18 patentably distinguish over the applied references and are in condition for allowance. Should the examiner have any issues concerning this reply or any other outstanding issues remaining in this application, applicants urge the examiner to contact the undersigned to expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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03 SEPTEMBER 2005

DATE

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